

# Media Advisory

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NOT FOR BROADCAST

September 26, 2007

**CONTACT:**

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## **STATE AGENCIES CONDUCT PANDEMIC FLU EXERCISE**

BISMARCK, N.D. - The N.D. Department of Emergency Services (NDDES), the N.D. Department of Health (NDDoH) and the N.D. National Guard (NDNG) will conduct a tabletop exercise Friday to practice inter-agency operations and communication in response to a pandemic flu.

The LIGNITE WIND Tabletop Exercise is being conducted with various local, state and federal agencies along with several private and volunteer organizations. It provides all participants the opportunity to demonstrate an increased readiness and explore cooperative relationships to deal with a pandemic influenza incident. Partnering agencies will carry out coordination protocols outlined in the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) utilizing the Incident Command System (ICS) of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Media personnel are invited to participate in a news conference as part of this exercise. The news conference, broadcasted via closed circuit television to the exercise participants (simulating a live broadcast), will focus on preparedness measures and facts pertaining to a pandemic influenza outbreak. Media personnel are invited to observe activities of the LIGNITE WIND Tabletop Exercise. Media availability is scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**WHEN:** September 28, 2007

**TIME:** 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (news conference at 10:45 a.m.)

**WHERE:** N.D. State Capitol Building, Brynhild Haugland Room

**SPECIFICS:** A Joint Information Center (JIC) will be established in the Fort Lincoln Room. All media personnel are requested to check-in with the JIC.

Media personnel will view the exercise from a designated area. Media will be asked to remain within the designated observation area during the exercise. Representatives from NDDES and NDDoH will be available to explain the exercise and answer questions during the exercise.

Additional information on Pandemic Influenza is available at the following web sites:

U.S. Government portal – Pandemic Flu – <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control – <http://www.cdc.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control, Avian Flu – <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/>

National Center for Infectious Disease – <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/>

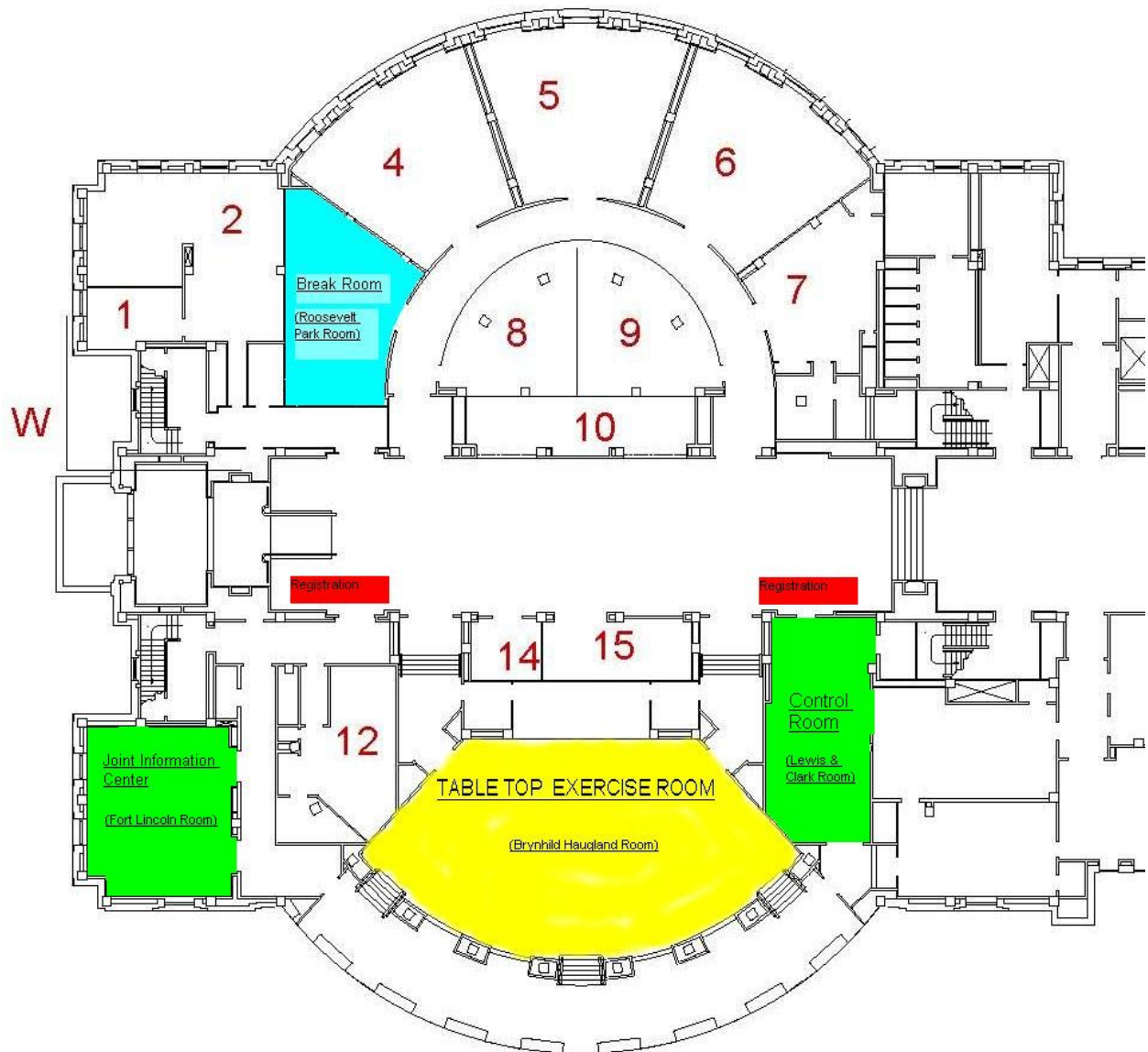
N.D. Department of Emergency Services – <http://www.nd.gov/des/info/infectiousdiseases.html>

N.D. Department of Health – <http://www.health.state.nd.us/>

World Health Organization – <http://www.who.int/en/>

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